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Cook - Interior 5634

PUBLIC INVITED TO VISIT NEW OCEAN RESEARCH VESSEL IN WASHINGTON, D. C.

The 187-foot craft, newest scientific vessel of the Department of the Interior, will be docked at Pier 2 of the old Naval Weapons Plant on the Anacostia River, Washington, D. C. It will be open to the public between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. each of the four days. Entrance to the pier is at 8th and M Streets, Southeast.

Twin diesel engines drive the ship at 12 knots over a range of 9,000 miles.

Scientists will work in this safe and stable laboratory as the vessel moves over the ocean. At the same time, they will be able to study ocean life and conditions in the sea several hundred feet below them--relayed to television screens from a cable-suspended underwater television camera.

From this floating laboratory fishery biologists and other scientists will study the abundance of fish and their distribution in the sea. They will seek more information on the environmental conditions that cause fluctuations in fish numbers, study plankton (an important link in the food chain of many valuable sea animals), and observe oceanographic conditions.

The Albatross has quarters for a scientific staff of 16 and a crew of 22.

Contrary to the usual manner of assembly, the Albatross IV was "keel up" in the early stages of construction rather than "keel down." Consequently, her keel was never "laid." Instead, at the proper time in her construction, three cranes righted her so the work could continue on her superstructure.

The Albatross IV was designed by Dwight S. Simpson & Associates of Boston, Mass., and was built by the Southern Shipbuilding Corporation of Slidell, La. The ship was completed in October 1962 and was moved to the Woods Hole site of the Fish and Wildlife Service's Bureau of Commercial Fisheries Biological Laboratory for commissioning.

The Albatross will return to Woods Hole following her 4-day open house in Washington.

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